

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, the method comprising:

determining a first transfer quality factor relating the requestor and a first source, the first source identified by a first identifier;

determining a second transfer quality factor relating the requestor and a second source, the second source identified by a second identifier;

providing a preference to the selector, wherein the preference is based on the first and second transfer quality factors, the preference comprising at least one of the first and second identifiers; and

the selector selecting a source for the requestor based on the preference.

2. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, the method further comprising:

identifying the first and the second sources.

3. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, the method further comprising:

providing the first and the second identifiers to the requestor.

4. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, wherein the determining a first transfer quality factor includes performing a plurality of tests.

5. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 4, the method further comprising:

using a weighting function to weight the plurality of tests to determine the first transfer quality factor.

6. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 5, wherein the weighting function is defined by a user.

7. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, wherein the selected source is a transfer node, whereby the transfer node comprises a content object transferred from an originating source and made available to the requestor.

8. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, the method further comprising:
displaying the preference to a user.

9. A method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content object source, the method comprising:
identifying a first and a second source;
analyzing transfer quality between the requestor and the first source, and between the requestor and the second source;
ranking the first and the second sources based on the analyzed transfer qualities; and
using the ranking to guide selection of the content object source, whereby the selected content object source is one of the first source, the second source, or a third source.

10. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 9, wherein using the ranking comprises:
transferring the ranking to a selector, the selector selecting the content object source partially based on the ranking, and the selector indicating the selected content object source to the requestor.

11. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 9, wherein the analyzing transfer quality includes performing a plurality of tests.

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1 12. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content
2 object source, according to claim 9, wherein the analyzing transfer quality includes
3 performing at least one of traceroute, test via file transfer, server health check, server load
4 check, ping, path difference, BGP routing information, or port response time.

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2 13. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content
3 object source, according to claim 9, the method further comprising:
4 requesting a content object from the selected content object source; and
receiving the content object.

1 14. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content
2 object source, according to claim 13, wherein the receiving the content object includes
3 pre-fetching a portion the content object.

1 15. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content
2 object source, according to claim 13, wherein the receiving the content object includes at
3 least one of: decompressing the content object, decrypting the content object, or
4 performing a security check of the content object.

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1 16. A method for supplying a content object from a content object
2 source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a
3 client preference, the method comprising:
4 identifying a first and a second transfer node to the client;
5 ranking the first and second transfer nodes by the client, the ranking
6 forming a client preference;
7 selecting one of the first or second transfer nodes based on the client
8 preference; and
9 requesting transfer of a content object from the selected transfer node.

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1 17. The method for supplying a content object from a content object
2 source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a
3 client preference, according to claim 16, wherein the client preference is created by
4 analysis of a transfer quality between the client and the first transfer node and between
5 the client and the second transfer node.

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1. *Pharmaceuticals*: The pharmaceutical industry is a major contributor to the U.S. economy, with sales exceeding \$400 billion in 2019. The industry is heavily regulated by the FDA, which oversees the safety, efficacy, and quality of drugs. The industry is also facing increasing pressure from payers (insurers and patients) to reduce costs, leading to a focus on value-based pricing and generic drug competition.